

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13470 181625Z

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SUBJECT: CISL MINORITY LEADER SCALIA SUSPENDED

REF: ROME 12723 (NOTAL)

1. VITO SCALIA, EX-ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF CISL AND LEADER OF THE MINORITY OPPOSED TO UNIFICATION WITH CGIL AND UIL, HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR SIX MONTHS BY CISL'S BOARD OF ARBITERS (PROBIVIRI) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18. THIS ACTION PREVENTS SCALIA FROM EXERCISING ANY OF HIS FUNCTIONS WITHIN CISL WHICH INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIRECTORATE AND THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

2. THE CHARGES AGAINST SCALIA WHICH ARE LISTED ON FOURTEEN TYPEWRITTEN PAGES ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A) HE IS ACCUSED OF HAVING REPEATEDLY TAKEN ANTI-UNION POSITIONS DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS AND ENCOURAGING WORKERS NOT

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PAGE 02 ROME 13470 181625Z

TO PARTICIPATE IN STRIKES CALLED BY THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU);

B) PUBLICLY CRITICIZING CISL, CALLING IT A REFLECTION OF CGIL AND INSINUATING THAT ITS LEADERS WERE PARTICIPATING IN AN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PLAN;

C) UNDERTAKING A SERIES OF ACTION IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AIMED AT PREPARING A SECESSION AND OF ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE HEADQUARTERS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS SCALIA SAID: QUOTE THIS IS THE FIRST POLITICAL TRIAL WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN ITALY AND GIVEN THE TIME IN WHICH WE ARE LIVUFO IT MAY NOT BE THE LAST. NATURALLY, I AM HONORED TO PAY THIS PRICE FOR LIBERTY IN GENERAL AND FOR THE ITALIAN WORKERS IN PARTICULAR. UNQUOTE. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE CISL MINORITY WOULD MEET ON SEPTEMBER 18 TO ASSESS THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PROBIVIRI.

4. CISL SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTI IS QUOTED IN THE TURIN DAILY LA STAMPA AS SAYING THAT THE SCALIA CASE DOES NOT REPRESENT DEMOCRATIC DISSENT BUT RATHER DEFAMATION OF AN ORGANIZATION OF WHICH SCALIA IS A LEADER. QUOTE WE MUST DEFEAT EVERY ATTEMPT TO HURT CISL, ITS INTEGRITY, ITS UNITY AND THROUGH CISL THE ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT. UNQUOTE

5. COMMENT: CLEARLY, THIS LATEST EPISODE IN THE SCALIA SAGA COULD HAVE IMPORTANT REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE AGREEMENT ACHIEVED LAST JULY WHICH RECONCILED THE CISL MAJORITY AND MINORITY FORCES. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE REACTION OF SCALIA HIMSELF AND ON THAT OF THE CISL MINORITY IN GENERAL. WE KNOW THAT, AS OF SEPTEMBER 17 SARTORI WAS TRYING URGENTLY TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF CISL SEC GEN STORTI AND DEPUTY SEC GEN MACARIO TO INDUCE THE BOARD OF ARBITERS TO WITHHOLD THE JUDGMENT THEY HAVE NOW RENDERED.

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